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H I P A A L E R T - lite -- December 30, 2002

>>From Phoenix Health Systems--HIPAA Knowledge--HIPAA Solutions<<
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HIPAAlatest -- additions to HIPAAadvisory.com

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H I P A A n e w s

*** Security Rule Delayed for Fine-Tuning; More Rules on the Way ***

The Federal Register of Friday, December 27, made no mention of the final security rule nor the transactions modifications which were due to be published on that date. As of the 28th, the security rule had not been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), with OMB review generally taking a minimum of two weeks. Modern Physician reports that the final security rule could be delayed more than a couple of weeks in part because of the holidays and also because HHS has called in additional staff to fine-tune the language, according to Robert Tennant, Washington representative for the Englewood, Colo.-based Medical Group Management Association. "I would be absolutely shocked to see (the rule) in January," Tennant says.

According to Health Data Management, HHS officials gave conflicting statements over whether the security and transactions rules would be published as scheduled, and no explanation has been given as to the latest delay in getting out the rules. HHS officials told Health Data Management in a recent interview that HHS expects to publish the proposed claims attachment rule by mid-2003. The department expects in early spring 2003 to publish the final provider and proposed payer identifier rules. HHS has started work on a proposed HIPAA enforcement rule and could publish it during 2003, although no timetable is set.

Read more: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.cfm#1230mp>

*** OCR to Automate Privacy Complaint Submittals ***

Comments are being requested on a proposed project of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to automate its forms for discrimination and medical privacy complaints. Effective April 14, 2003, OCR has jurisdiction over certain health plans, health clearinghouses and healthcare providers with respect to enforcement of the standards for privacy of individually identifiable health information rule issued pursuant to HIPAA. OCR wants to develop an automated complaint submittal process for individuals to file written complaints with OCR when they believe that on or after April 14, 2003, their right to the privacy of protected health information has been violated. OCR estimates that there will be approximately 21,710 complaints concerning medical privacy (16,283 burden hours annually).

Read more: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.cfm#1227ocr>

*** New Workgroup to Assess Impact of Info. Security on Healthcare ***

Under the auspices of URAC (also known as the American Accreditation HealthCare Commission) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Security Healthcare Certification and Accreditation Workgroup will bring together members of the public and private sectors to

develop a uniform approach to the identification and implementation of best practices in healthcare information security. The Workgroup intends to serve as a resource for the healthcare community by developing white papers, drafting crosswalks, and participating in educational programs. Ultimately, the Workgroup hopes to promulgate a common set of healthcare security standards that will cover security policies, procedures, controls, and auditing practices.

The Workgroup will have its next meeting on January 10, 2003 at NIST in Gaithersburg, MD, where the Workgroup will facilitate a healthcare sector review of the recently released draft NIST Special Publication 800-37, Guidelines for the Security Certification and Accreditation of Federal Information Technology Systems.

Read more: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.cfm#1227uraq>

*** NCQA Releases Privacy Certification for BAs Draft Standards ***

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) released on December 16 draft standards for its new Privacy Certification for Business Associates (PCBA) program. The program will certify that business associates have processes in place for handling protected health information (PHI) that are in compliance with HIPAA. Proposed program requirements relate to: privacy protections for oral, written, and electronic PHI; processes and practices for the storage, use, and disclosure of PHI; employee training in PHI protections; consumer access to PHI; and contracting between covered entities and their business associates.

Read more: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.cfm#1226ncqa>

*** X12N Draft Guides Review Period Extended ***

According to the WEDI SNIP X12N Insurance Subcommittee, most of the draft X12N implementation guides currently available for public review were posted without meeting one of the process requirements. As a result, these implementation guides will not be brought forward for a publication vote at the February 2003 X12 trimester meeting in Denver, as previously expected. Instead, X12N will finalize the necessary changes at the February meeting, then by April 2003, revised drafts will be made available for another public review period. It is expected that the impacted guides will then be moved forward for a publication vote at the June 2003 X12 trimester meeting. The deadline for comments has been extended by one week for all implementation guides to January 8, 2003 except for the X167 – Health Care Claim Acknowledgement. The end date for the X167 guide public review will remain January 13, 2003.

Read more: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.cfm#1226x12n>

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Phoenix Health Systems' Audio Conference
"11TH HOUR HIPAA: Meeting the Deadlines When You Haven't Started!"
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<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/ezcart/>

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H I P A A l a t e s t

NEW IN HIPAAAction > Transactions & Code Sets --

HIPAA 101 for Health Care Providers' Offices
(first in a series of 10 documents from CMS)
on complying with TCS Standards Requirements (document file):
<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/action/tcs/CMSHIPAA101.doc>

CMS' Provider HIPAA Readiness Checklist:
<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/action/tcs/index.htm#cms122602>

> Awareness --

Not Just for HIPAA:
Best Practices for Security and Privacy Make Good Business Sense:
<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/action/HIPAAwareness.htm#120402hl>

NEW on the CONFERENCE CALENDAR --
Conferences, workshops, seminars and more throughout 2003:
<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/calendar/index.htm>

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HIPAAAlert-lite is our weekly version of HIPAAAlert, Phoenix Health Systems'

acclaimed monthly enewsletter.

Our Other HIPAA resources:

HIPAAAdvisory web site: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com>

HIPAAnote Weekly Byte of HIPAA: <http://www.hipaanote.com>

HIPAAlive Discussion List: <http://www.hipaalive.com>

HIPAAlive-Premium: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/live/prem.htm>

HIPAAlive Doc Site: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/MembersOnlySignup/>

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